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CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

FIVE WINS IN A ROW GIVES US SAIGON CUP

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SAIGON, Wednesday — Part of our national debt to Korean soccer has been wiped out in the muddy Cong Hoa Stadium where Australia last night triumphed in the Vietnam National Day Tournament.

Although our World Cup defeats at the hands of North Korea in 1965 cannot be undone, our 3-2 victory against their southern countrymen, generally regarded as one of the strongest soccer countries in free Asia, must give us belated, but fully merited prestige in this part of the world.

Australia's win was no fluke. Actually the score flattered the Koreans, who,

but for the now traditional clash between the Aussie forwards and the Saigon woodwork, could easily have conceded another three goals.

The final was played in an eerie atmosphere, with American artillery fire providing a nerve-wrecking backdrop to the match.

Well remembering the fiery incidents of their team's semifinal clash against the Koreans, the capacity crowd of 30,000 was clearly behind the Aussies.

Chants of "Uptoli (Australia in Vietnamese) Number One" greeted the goal by Abonyi in the 34th minute which clinched the title for Australia.

The huge silver Challenge Cup was accepted on behalf of the Australian team by skipper John Warren with tears of joy flowing down the cheeks of all Australians in the stadium.

The Koreans snubbed the presentation ceremony, because, as one of their officials explained, "they were disappointed."

1-1 AT HALFTIME

As pretty Vietnamese girls hung garlands of flowers over the necks of the Australians, every player and coach Joe Vlasits — who has again proved his golden touch as he has done so often in Sydney with a team entrusted in his care — were carried shoulder-high.

Down 0-1 after one minute as a result of an unfortunate mix-up in front of Corry's goal, Australia riposted with a series of ferocious attacks.

Vojtek hit the post in the 10th minute, and after McColl missed an open goal, the pattern of the semifinal against Malaysia seemed to be repeating itself.

Australia equalised in the 26th minute when Vojtek weaved through the Korean defence and slammed the ball home from close range.

Australia were well on top until halftime, but had to wait until the 52nd minute before taking the lead.

Abonyi, after feinting two defenders, crashed in the most vital goal of the series from 18 yards.

Although Warren, and Baartz were nearly in again minutes later, the Koreans also had a few chances, but

either weak shooting or Corry, who is now in top form, thwarted their attempts.

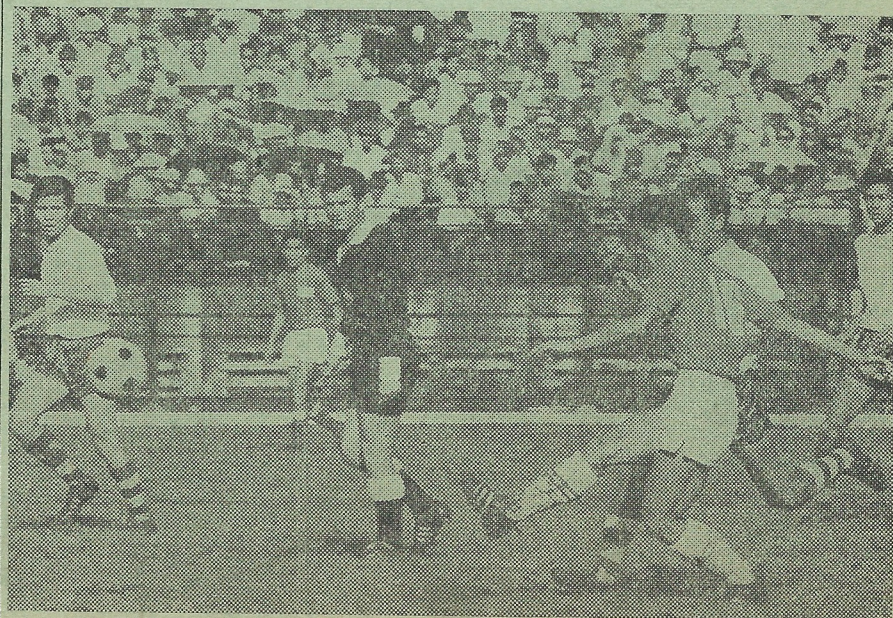
In the last 25 minutes, play became heated and spiteful, culminating with the expulsion of a Korean defender for a vicious foul on Vojtek.

In the 84th minute, Van Alphen took a long free-kick, Abonyi rose to meet the ball, and from six yards slipped it into the left-hand corner to make it 3-1.

One minute later, with the Aussies obviously already planning their victory celebration, Hun Yung slipped through our defence to reduce the score.

Australia, however, were never in any danger of being caught in the last five minutes and a packed defence made sure the Challenge Cup was ours.

The Australian team that won the final: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Schaefer, Van Alphen, Westwater; McColl, Abonyi, Warren, Baartz, Vojtek.



Sydney referee Tony Boskovic was in charge of the South Korea v. Hong Kong match.

Fervent patriotism drives Sth. Koreans

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SAIGON, Wednesday — The South Koreans had made a tremendous impact on most members of the Australian team prior to the final.

Although the Koreans created an awesome impression, 1965 tourists, Ackerley, Watkiss and Warren, claim they are not nearly as strong as the North Korean side that knocked Australia out of

the World Cup in Phnom-Penh.

"North Korea would have beaten South Korea just as convincingly as they defeated Australia," Ackerley said.

South Korea is a lightning-fast team, perpetually on the move, chipping short passes from one player to the other.

They are just as resourceful in defence as attack.

One can see they have been playing together for quite some time, although theirs is a young team.

Their understanding is first-class and their resolution has to be seen to be believed.

They would die for their country, and had the added support of a large, fanatical choir of Korean servicemen barracking for them.

The South Koreans always caused a flurry of excitement whenever they appeared in any part of the Cong Hoa Stadium.

They were followed by a swarm of Army photographers, mainly Korean pressmen.

Here are my impressions of some of the other teams in Saigon.

It came as a shock to find that the Malaysians are steeped in the English style of football.

They use the long ball to advantage and are capable of slowing the game down, holding the ball and also of tackling robustly — as the Australians found out in the semifinal.

They are very fast in recovery, but their defence as a whole was far more impressive than their attack.

The New Zealanders deteriorated with every match instead of improving.

They showed some promise against Australia in the opening match, though outplayed, but were not impressive in beating the very weak Singapore 3-1.

Against Vietnam, they suffered a humiliating experience, and in the second half were made to look like novices.

The Kiwis disintegrated as the days went by. Seven of their players suffered from dysentery and they paid the penalty for not bringing a doctor with them.

New Zealand's best players were tricky Hungarian-born winger Nemeth and the tall, rangy inside-right, Brian Tucker, who would be an asset to any Sydney club.

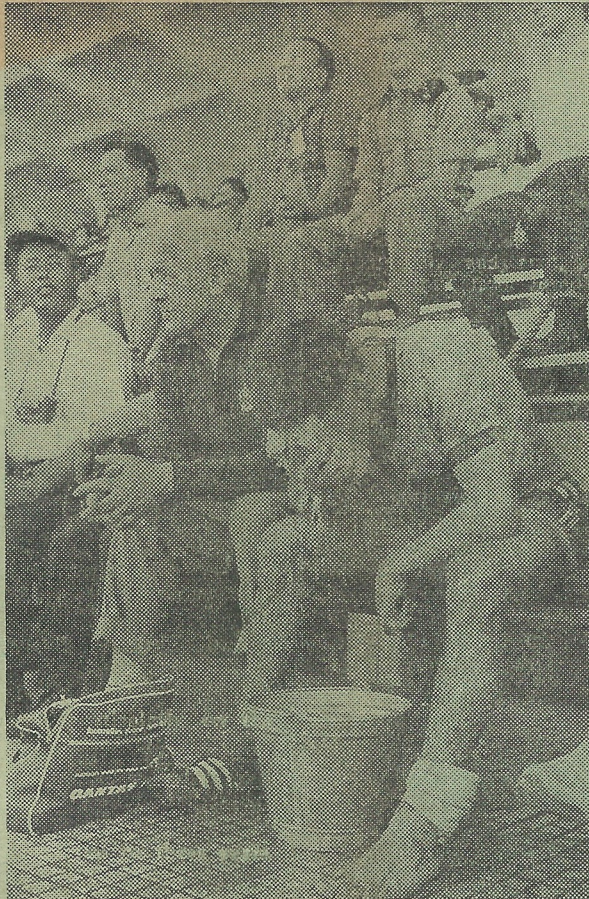
The New Zealanders otherwise are a very ordinary team, far too slow and immature to venture into international competition at this stage of their development.

Hong Kong were represented by their under-23 team, which comprised mainly of Second Division and First Division reserve players.

It was a miracle of organisation that enabled Hong Kong to enter any sort of a team at all in Vietnam.

Their team was selected, documented, inoculated, ticketed and despatched within the incredibly short space of two days.

Little wonder that under these circumstances they finished last in Group "B."



Ray Richards dousing himself with iced water after being injured and replaced against New Zealand. On his right is masseur Lou Lazzari.

INDONESIA THIS WEEK

The second section of the Australian team's Asian tour is now under way.

The Australians are now in Djakarta where they will play Indonesia today, Friday, November 17, and also on Sunday.

Theirs is only a four-day stop-over in the Indonesian capital as on Tuesday they will already be in Singapore for the first of their two matches against Singapore.

Australia meets Singapore twice — next Tuesday and Thursday — before flying to Kuala Lumpur for the final match of the Asian tour on Saturday, November 25.

Indonesia's recent international performances suggest they are slightly better than South Vietnam.

At the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok, in their preliminary group, they drew 0-0 with South Vietnam and beat Singapore 3-0 and Taiwan 3-1.

They failed to reach the semifinals, but in their quarterfinal group held the eventual winners, Burma, to a 2-2 draw after losing 0-1 to the Games' runners-up, Iran.

The Indonesians in Bangkok 11 months ago impressed me as fine ball players, possibly among the best in Asia.

However, they lacked stamina, and like most Asian teams were decidedly weak in front of goal.

They had a good defence, but here again the Australians' marked superiority in height may prevail.

If the arduous Saigon programme hasn't taken its toll and if the Australians are not too disorientated after only 24 hours in the country, Australia should leave Djakarta undefeated.

— Lou Gautier

BIG BANKSTOWN JUNIOR SET-UP SHOWS THE WAY

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

If junior success determined the title of top soccer district in the nation over recent years, it would be a bold man that would refrain from nominating Bankstown.

In three years, Bankstown has taken out 11 State championships.

Three of these were won this year.

And that just starts the list.

Bankstown won five Sydney titles, and four Sydney KO cups.

Its clubs won four "champion of champion" competitions.

Its inter-district representatives won the under-14 and under-16 leagues.

More than 6,700 soccer players take to the fields in the district, amateur and senior clubs, with many others in church and school teams in the area.

Sixty "nursery" teams back up the 326 teams in the Bankstown Association.

It is not many years since the Association was instituted with some 28 teams, newly formed or drawn from nearby Canterbury.

Combined effort

The enthusiastic officials over the years have built the game well.

President today is Eric Arneil, and secretary is Phil Sleep.

Both have given much to the game, being also president and treasurer respectively of the Sydney Metropolitan Amateurs.

It is not easy to understand, with such overwhelming strength, why Bankstown is not high on the Federation First Division.

Some hard thinking has been done on just this point, and the present decision favors developing junior talent, coaching at all levels, and a combined senior-junior effort.

The Association and Bankstown club have recently merged into one organisation, styled the "Bankstown Association and United Soccer Clubs."

The so-called juniors now control senior football in Bankstown.

Nine local players have made their way into the first team, and the complete champion under-16 team has been signed by the senior club.

Bankstown won the Federation Second Division round-robin championship, and their performance against Sutherland, Western Suburbs and Co. will be amongst the highlights of 1968.

Can Bankstown reach the top by their chosen methods?

Only time can answer the question.

Certainly more and more determination and skill will be used in the endeavour, with more and more effective plans certain to evolve in the months ahead.

One of the features that is rocketing Bankstown juniors ahead is the emphasis on coaching.

Over 60 people are being covered by a coaches course at the Bankstown Soccer Club Ltd. each Monday night at present.

Former Canterbury and Bankstown player, Arthur Smith, is president of the Bankstown Coaches.

The secretary, Dave Mathie, 53 Johnson Road, Bass Hill, would give guidance to any district wishing

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to form its own coaches society.

Mathie was one of the early members of the NSW Federation of Coaches, and has used his vast store of experience to great effect.

Some of the district's most talented youngsters are undergoing summer coaching under the guidance of Roger Bamforth and Nelson Stiffle.

Representative goalkeepers are being prepared by that Prince of Goalkeepers, Ron Lord.

Don't be surprised if his help extends down to club goalkeepers in 1968.

The combined Bankstown organisation has the full support of the Bankstown Soccer Club Ltd.

This year, Second Division football will be played on Bankstown Soccer Club's own ground, in addition to other selected fixtures.

Bankstown Memorial Oval will be maintained and fully utilised by Inter-District representatives and juniors.

Leaving aside predictions about the many honors that may come Bankstown's way in the next few years, the least one can say is that if every district showed Bankstown's energy and enthusiasm, then soccer would be the better for it, and would be ready to take its place in the world code in just about every one of soccer's many facets.

SAIGON SHORTS

— from Martin Royal —

SAIGON, Tuesday — Masseur Lou Lazzari, the gentle sage of the touring party, is very popular with the young Vietnamese girl student guides. His gracious manners and old world courtesies towards them have won their hearts. The other day, one of them asked him: "Can we call you Father?" Lou, smilingly, consented.

The Prime Minister of South Vietnam invited the Australian team to a reception at the Presidential Palace this morning. The President, a keen soccer fan, told the Australians he expected them to win the final. Was he just being diplomatic?

One of the guests of honor at the Australia v. South Vietnam game was the Australian Ambassador to South Vietnam, Lou Border. He was accompanied by members of his Embassy staff. The morning of the match, co-managers, John Barclay and Jim Connell, had presented to the Ambassador, on behalf of the ASF, two silver salvers and serviette rings.

The food at the players' hotel is still causing trouble. Manager Barclay and Dr. Corrigan are constantly registering complaints with the hotel manager. This is just a second class hotel, even by Vietnamese standards. The cuisine may be suitable to Asian palates, but the Australians are finding some of the gooey mixtures served to them quite revolting.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

ST. GEORGE-BUDAPEST are seriously considering a piece of land for purchase at Rockdale. The price is \$52,000 and the land is big enough to be developed into a 20,000 capacity stadium, the estimated cost of which is some \$1m.

At the GRANVILLE Annual General Meeting last weekend, Ron Simmons was elected president of the Granville-Parramatta Soccer Club. Lindsay Burgess remains the secretary and E. Dupont becomes the new treasurer. Joe Serdoz, the former president, did not contest the election.

The Pan Hellenic party was literally overwhelmed by the hospitality of their South Australian hosts, WA Hellas, last weekend. They were accommodated at a top-class motel, had three cars at their disposal and were entertained at a luxurious home in the Adelaide Hills on Saturday night. On Sunday, Hellas officials took the players for a swim and a sightseeing trip around Adelaide. Pan Hellenic wish to thank their South Australian hosts for their marvellous hospitality through this column.

The Annual Meeting of the SYDNEY METROPOLITAN AMATEUR SFA has been set down for this Saturday, November 18, at 1 p.m. at the Western Suburbs Soccer Club, Bevin Avenue, Five Dock.

ALLAN HALLS, NSW Federation Referees' president, first gained his referees ticket at Lismore, where he also served as District Association secretary for a long term. With this background, there is little wonder that his Association aims to conduct referees coaching courses in many country centres during 1968.

Hakoah are not too hopeful that their star halfback, DANNY WALSH, who embarks on a United Kingdom holiday later this month, will return next season.

MELITA A.G.M. WAS A BEAUT!

A vigorous new broom swept out the outgoing Melita Eagles' management committee in one of the rowdiest Annual General Meetings attended by a record number of members and supporters last Sunday.

Emotions ran high during the stormy meeting and members expressed their feelings in no uncertain way on how they want the club to be run.

In the balloting, former secretary, Nick Bonello, and former vice-president, Joe Attard, were both defeated by big margins while most of the remaining 25-member committee declined to contest their former positions in the face of the hostile mood of the members.

Melita's new officials for 1968 are: president: Vince Pisani, who was re-elected unopposed; secretary: Emmanuel Said; vice-president: Dr. C. Cassar; treasurer: Victor Buttigieg; team manager: S. Sammut, also elected unopposed.

Most of the other committee members for 1968 are newcomers.

— Charles Spiteri

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The executive of the AUSTRALIAN COACHES FEDERATION for 1968 is: Denes Adrigan, president; "Rags" Tatters, Alec Hastings, Duncan Summers, William Bobbins, Ken Kontra, vice-presidents; George Schott, secretary-treasurer, and Harry Preece, assistant-secretary.

Pan Hellenic goalie, TONY MAGLIS, who is now sporting a black beard, has been nicknamed "Father Anthony" by his team-mates.

In reference to the "Smalltalk" item in our October 27 issue, the NSW Referees Association have requested a denial on the grounds that the meeting they attended at the St. George-Budapest Club was with the NSW Amateur Football Association, not with the Federation of Sydney Referees.

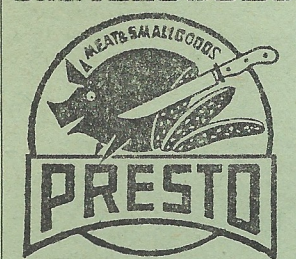
NEW LAMBTON SOUTH, which gained promotion to the Northern League First Division, was formed in 1965 to provide an outlet for the products of the club's huge junior nursery. The club won the Third Division whilst their leading players were still qualified for under-16. Coached by TOMMY DAWSON, and with very few team changes, New Lambton South headed Slavia by one point to reach First Division.

The Protestant Churches Association secretary ROY PEARSON and his management committee recently completed an unenviable task. The season's records of all the winners amongst the 635 teams were fully checked before their top positions were confirmed.

Hakoah deny any knowledge of a rumor that their star forward RAY BAARTZ may be considering to rejoin his former Newcastle club, Adamstown, as player-coach next season.

KEN WHITMORE, the Wallsend centre-forward was top goalscorer in Newcastle this year, with 38 goals in

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30 matches. JOHNNY GALAMBOS, called in by Cardiff during the season in an unsuccessful bid to avoid relegation, netted 11 goals.

Although placed sixth in the Northern NSW First Division, ADAMSTOWN ROSEBUDS won the club championship. Their reserve team won the league, and their under-21s finished in second place. For Adamstown, 1967 was a year of re-building.

BLACKTOWN UNITED will hold their AGM at the Blacktown Civic Centre at 8 p.m. on November 23. The club wants many people to turn up who are willing to take an active part in its administration.

WALTER TAMANDL will be placed on Pan Hellenic's transfer list. Tamandl had a successful leg operation in Vienna recently and could still have a couple of years as a player left.

ALAN HIGNETT, the Pan Hellenic defender, gets married on Saturday.

WA-Hellas, the South Australian club is reported to be showing an interest in Pan Hellenic's utility player, SOT PATRINOS.

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● FIRST DIVISION FLASHBACK

SAINTS FINALLY WIN WELL DESERVED HALO

— By LOU GAUTIER —

"Team of the year" is the tag St. George-Budapest, Ampol Cup and Grand Final winners, can wear with pride this year.

In January not even the most ardent, optimistic St. George fan could have dreamt of the success which was to come their way as the season unfolded.

Actually, there were even some who feared Saints might experience a lean 1967 season, what with the not unappreciable loss of key players such as Yardley and Banicevic.

Not even the team's magnificent undefeated run in the Ampol Cup allayed pessimistic forecasts of a difficult premiership ahead.

This pessimism seemed justified as St. George lost their superb Ampol Cup form as the competition got under way.

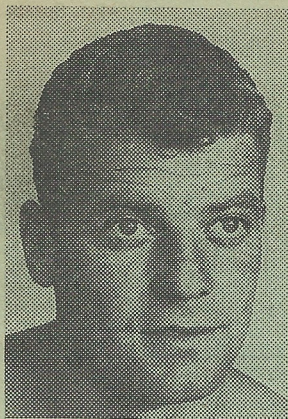
SHAKY START

The premiership started disastrously for them with a shattering 1-6 hammering at the hands of Hakoah, and after the first four rounds the team was on the wrong end of the ladder.

Slowly, but surely, however, their form improved and the half-way mark of the championship found Saints in their now almost traditional place in the first four.

But there was nothing at this stage to suggest St. George could even remotely threaten APIA's hegemony.

Though Croatia were overhauled soon after the return round of matches, APIA's big lead was never threatened.



DAVID CLISS

During the 22 competition rounds St. George rarely hogged the headlines or the limelight.

Paradoxically, despite finishing a most convincing second in the league, they seldom caught the imagination.

There were few glaring weaknesses in their line-up, but they also had few personality players who stood out.

Warren, and the newcomer Cliss, in attack were the exceptions, and it wasn't a surprise that Saints' finest hour — in the Grand Final — coincided with inspired displays from those key forwards.

St. George were luckier than most teams in the vital respect that they had one of the most balanced teams in the competition.

This was amply in evidence in the Grand Final when every player pulled his weight.

They carried few passengers, with the possible exception of their wingers earlier in the season.

But then, which Sydney team, can boast of classy, match-winning outside men?

The team was also served by admirable team spirit.

Never noted in the not too distant past for its fighting qualities and determination, the 1967 crew had a surfeit of guts, never gave up the

chase and could be relied on to fight until the final whistle.

"Do-or-die" players like Isaac, Hillary, Schaefer, Zuckerman and Warren can take much of the credit for Saints' transformation into a fighting, battle-hardened unit far less prone to despondency than in the past.

St. George's transformation was most apparent in the Grand Final.

On countless previous occasions they had accepted, almost with fatalistic resignation, the ascendancy APIA held over them.

In the Grand Final this myth was shattered, perhaps for good, as they converted a two-goal deficit into a stirring 5-2 triumph in the best match seen in Sydney for some years.

This is how the conquering Saints performed in 1967:

Goalkeeper Frank Haffey had by far his best season since joining the club from Swindon.

With Haffey, an entertaining "showman", there was never a dull moment, but he was much more than the clown prince of Sydney soccer players.

Of the fullbacks, Roger Hillary was the more consistent performer throughout the season.

His form, in fact, was so good that he was a possibility for representative honors this season.

Stegbauer, elegant as always, was somewhat out of touch for the first half of the season, but regained form in the latter stages, and he really excelled himself in the finals as a makeshift winger.

Salvador Isaac was the perfect clubman and his absence may be felt next season.

He filled almost every position in defence and midfield, never disappointed and could always be relied on for a 100 per cent effort.

Manfred Schaefer was the pick of Saints' halfback line.

The tank-like Australian international, who richly deserved his selection in the Australian touring team, used his tremendous strength, stamina and heart to good advantage.

Schaefer's technique also improved this year and he is no longer just a ruthless "destroyer", but the complete halfback.

Zuckerman was his usual elegant, intelligent self, and it was no coincidence that Saints' midfield functioned best when he was able to hold his place.

Here is an under-rated player, often taken for granted, who has served the club admirably over the years and deserves far more recognition.

"DISCOVERY"

In Geoff Morgan, the strapping teenage centre-half, Saints had the "discovery" of the season, who kept Melbourne "import", Taylor, out of the team.

Morgan's meteoric rise from junior ranks in less than 12 months, was one of the success stories of the year.

The youngster found the going tough at first, but gained confidence with every match and could remain Saints' stopper for many years to come, and may eventually develop into a latter-day Marston.

Two players stood out larger than life in attack.

John Warren will long remember 1967, his finest year.

After leading Saints to their Grand Final triumph, he capped a memorable season with the captaincy of the national team.

Warren played a true skipper's role in Saint George. He was the inspiration behind their success.

Not only did he score most of their goals but, more important, he held the side together, rallied his troops when they flagged and showed the way by driving himself to the ground.

David Cliss, Sydney's best "import" from overseas in the last 14 months, was as classy as they come.



BARRY TAYLOR

The former Chelsea prodigy had class stamped all over him and added a touch of professionalism to St. George's forward line.

Cliss had a slight slump midway through the season, but his dazzling Ampol Cup form and his exhilarating Grand Final display gave him a niche all to himself in Sydney soccer this year.

The other St. George forwards were not as dominant as Warren and Cliss, though McColgan also had his finer moments.

The former Victorian started off quietly, but in the second half of the season, he developed into an exciting striker who played his part in Saints' successes.

Vic Fernandez was a trifle slow regaining form when he returned from Argentina, but he has lost none of his dash and clever footwork.

Next season he should again be a key forward.

Telfer, Todd, Sandell, Price and young McCue all played in the attack at one time or the other, with the latter two the most promising prospects.

The 1967 season was a triumph for long-serving coach Laurie Hegyes, who was thus justly rewarded for years of devotion to a club he had already steered to success in the Ampol Cup as far back as 1960.

Despite all the honors which were heaped on the team, St. George's greatest achievement was undoubtedly attained off the field, with the establishment of their modern licenced clubhouse at Mortdale.

This progressive move has assured Saints' future and they can now look ahead with unbounded optimism.

On the playing side, there is no reason why 1968 should not be as rewarding as this season.

They certainly have the players, officials and backing to go one better in 1968 and add another league title to their already impressive record.

■ SECOND DIV. REVIEW

Bankstown will soon be ready to strike

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

Slow starting and inconsistency cost Bankstown yet another opportunity to join the First Division ranks next season.

Bankstown did not quite live up to the hopes and expectations of club officials and supporters during the 1967 season even after allowing for the final burst of good football that enabled the side to win the Grand Final.

Bankstown have one of the best teams in Second Division since relegation, backed by an unlimited stream of talented youngsters from the district's huge and flourishing junior ranks.

The side's potential was evident throughout the season, but for no apparent reason they were so erratic that it cost them too many valuable points and at the end could only finish third on the competition table.

Reshuffle

Taking this year's opposition in consideration, this was well short of their capabilities and their overall performance would have never satisfied the hopes that coach Nelson Stiffle must have had.

To mention only some of their disastrous efforts early in the season, Bankstown with a full side could only manage a draw against newcomers and comparatively inexperienced Lane Cove while in another early encounter, they were routed 7-1 by Manly — and yet, technically, Bankstown played the better football.

At this stage, club officials showed concern and in trying to correct these pitfalls, the side was reshuffled many a

time to strike a winning combination which eventually was found in the second leg of the competition.

The forward trio of David Tansley, Roger Bamforth and Dennis Madden was undoubtedly the best in Second Division while in the defence the side was best served by its half-back line of McDermott, Hinksman and White, well assisted by the two reliable fullbacks, Jamieson and Fitzgerald.

Bankstown Soccer Club is part of the vast organisation which controls the 6000-odd players scattered over the district.

Committee members are all well known in the district as without exception all graduated through the junior ranks with the result that even though there is a big difference in administering the two bodies, there is complete understanding and tolerance.

Bankstown irons out its own domestic affairs but anything that affects the district as a whole has to go before the combined committee to be then ratified by the junior clubs themselves at their general meetings.

This harmony came into existence in 1961, after it was realised by both the senior club and the junior association that the future of the district's soccer lay in the development of local talent with the result that a blue-print was laid down to cater for the district's future.

When completed, over a period of 20 years, this long range scheme would give Bankstown one of the finest sporting clubs in Sydney.

First success that materialised from this venture came in 1964 when successful negotiations were concluded with Bankstown Council for the lease of huge tracts of wasteland near Bankstown Oval.

Work began on a new clubhouse for Bankstown Soccer Club Ltd. — the licenced club — which soon after opened for business in November, 1965.

Big plans

The plan envisages to provide:

- A sporting area which would cater for all sports but predominantly for soccer;
- Building of junior club-rooms and gymnasium;
- A First Division team from the ranks of the district's juniors with the introduction of coaching and technical staff which would ensure a constant supply of talent for the side.

During the past season, Bankstown was the only club in both First and Second Divisions which fielded a minimum of 10 local players throughout the whole competition.

The only "foreigner" was of course, Roger Bamforth — a former Aston Villa first grade regular — who absolutely refused to forsake the club when it was relegated to Second Division in 1965.

But Bankstown owes much to the dedication of coach Nelson Stiffle — a qualified FA coach — whose services to the district are invaluable.

Stiffle has promised the committee that he would have the club in First Division within three years and if the talent at his disposal is any guide, he is bound to succeed.

NOUMEA TOURNAMENT

Exciting prospects emerged on tour

Queensland goalkeeper, Ross Kelly, and Juventus Adelaide's fine utility player, John Perin, were the outstanding players with the Australian "B" team in New Caledonia.

Both were border-line omissions from the national team touring Asia, but according to "B" team manager, John Thomson, Perin and Kelly should be "automatic" selections in any Australian "A" squad next season.

Thomson returned from Noumea last Sunday highly delighted with the performance of the Australian youngsters.

"The first half of our match against New Zealand last Friday, which we won 3-1, produced some of the best football I've ever seen", he said.

"The players showed the benefit of two previous matches together and combined beautifully".

Thomson attributes the improved showing to the mid-week friendly against Vallee du Tir, the top New Caledonian club side, who were thrashed 8-1 by the Australians.

"Had we played a couple of matches before the triangular tournament, Australia would have beaten New Caledonia instead of losing 1-2 in the opening match", he claimed.

New Caledonia, however, took out the series when they beat New Zealand 4-0 last Wednesday.

Thomson and coach "Rags" Tatters were both very pleased with Australia's second placing in the tournament.

The Australians, they pointed out, faced many disadvantages.

Their opponents were all seasoned performers, not under-23 players; the heat was stifling (never less than 90 degrees) and their preparation was nothing like that of New Caledonia.

The New Caledonians fielded their full "A" team which had played together for the last 18 months and had just competed in another tournament in Tahiti.

Tatters also agreed that Kelly and Perin were Australia's best players.

Newcastle fullback Col Curran, team captain Dave Johnston, Prague forwards Armytage and Manuel, and South Coast's Denis Paterson also impressed the Queensland coach.

The entire Australian party returned home with glowing reports about New Caledonian hospitality.

They were all treated like VIPs, were introduced to the Island's French Governor, moved into a top hotel after the accommodation in the hotel first assigned to them

proved unsatisfactory, and they all couldn't speak too highly of Noumea's sporting facilities.

Noumea is endowed with an ultra-modern sports complex built for last year's South Pacific Games, which includes an elegant soccer stadium.

The project, which cost \$7 million, is miles ahead of anything Sydney has to offer.

This is how Australia lined up in the two internationals at Noumea.

v. New Caledonia: Kelly; D. Johnston, Curran; R. Cush, Morgan, Perin; Armytage, Manuel (1), Ian Johnston, Pont, Paterson.

v. New Zealand: Kelly; D. Johnston, Curran; R. Cush, Morgan, Perin; Armytage (1), Manuel (1), I. Johnston, Schneider, Paterson (1).

Tournament details:

Results

New Caledonia v. Australia 2-1; New Caledonia v. New Zealand 4-0; Australia v. New Zealand 3-1.

Tables

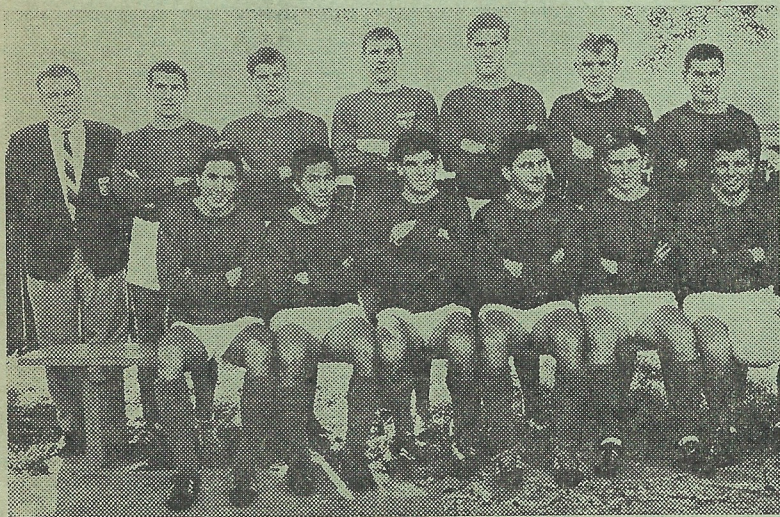
	W	D	L	F	A
New Caledonia	2	0	0	6	1
Australia	1	0	1	4	3
New Zealand	0	0	2	1	7

— Lou Gautier

SOCCER WORLD'S 1967

Best team:—

ST. GEO.-B'PEST



Although they finished only second in the competition to APIA, the Saints were the season's most successful combination.

Early in the piece they won the Ampol Cup and towards the end, the Grand Final — both against more fancied opponents.

Although they seldom sparked, in most of their matches they proved to be steady, well balanced and reliable.

With a little luck they could have given APIA a hotter race in the competition and could have also gone a long way in the Australia Cup.

It is possible that the Saints had, in the past, a team with more "natural" talent — but it's doubtful if they ever had a team with better fighting spirit.

And that, coupled with their undoubted skill, must give them pride of place in Sydney soccer.

All in all, Sydney soccer didn't have a bad season in 1967 — at least not on the playing fields.

Admittedly, we had some jarring notes such as the management chaos but these, one feels, will ultimately give way to a more stable, more foresighted leadership.

As far as the game itself is concerned, the Sydney public was certainly no worse off in 1967 than say in 1966.

And if this sounds like a back-handed compliment, let's remember that halting a decline is in itself an achievement, if not quite the same as reversing the trend.

The "home competitions," bread and butter of the clubs, produced quite a few entertaining, exciting matches.

Although we still have no "Prague 1959 vintage" — and may never have one — several of our top teams have helped to level the standard and make the competitions tight and close.

On the international scene, the year was a rich one. We had here a colorful Sparta Prague from Czechoslovakia, an efficient Scotland, and finally a brilliant Manchester United.

Predictably, St. George-Budapest figure very prominently in this year's honors.

For three years before APIA and their players dominated the scene.

Whose turn will it be in 1968?

Best coach:—

HEGYES (ST.GEO.)

In his fourth season with the club, the popular "Maestro", alternating between melancholy and ebullience, finally arrived.

Starting the year with little well founded optimism and without the kind of material that can be readily turned into a champion side, the hard-working Hegyes toiled and slaved with his charges, asking, cajoling, threatening and begging the last ounce of skill and energy out of his players.

Few coaches put more work into their team — and few expect to get more out of it.

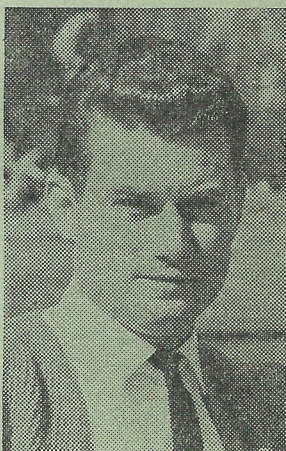
That the Saints have become a powerful, unified striking force with just the right blend of pure skill and daring dash, was ultimately his masterpiece.



Vastly underrated in official circles, Hegyes has finally proved himself. Also considered: Venglos, Vlasits.

Best referee:—

A. BOSKOVIC



Despite the obvious folly of using him only sparingly, Boskovic has finally, in 1967, grown right above

the rest of the field.

His handling of all important matches, including internationals as well as his current flawless displays in Asia stamp him as the best Australian referee of his generation.

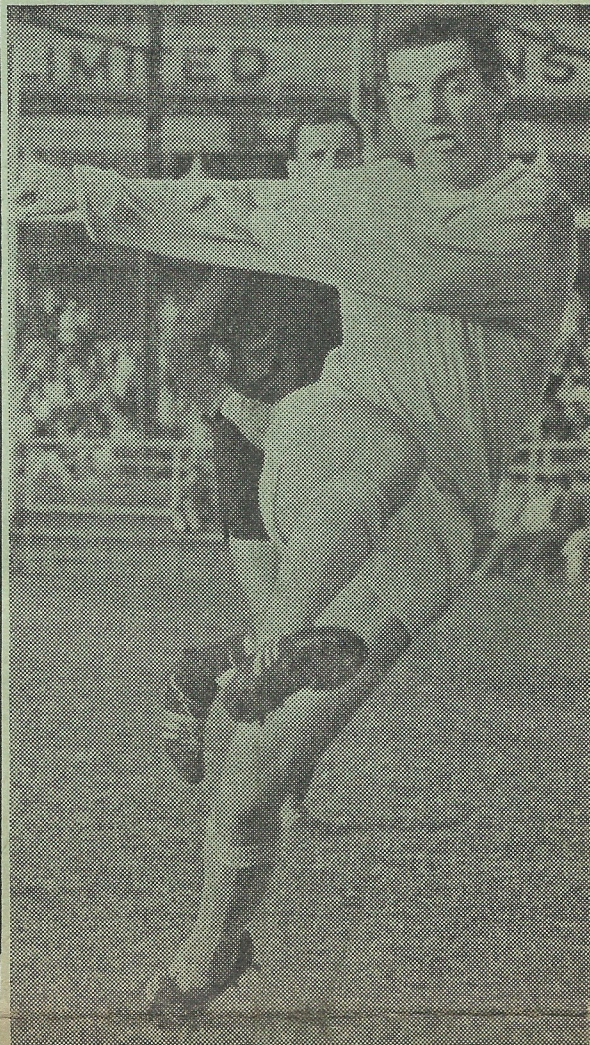
Indeed, Boskovic is now good and mature enough to be very seriously considered by FIFA for some of the world's great international tournaments, such as Olympics and World Cups.

Firm, authoritative, lightning fast and a brilliant interpreter of the written rules, Boskovic today is in a class of his own.

The greatest tribute to his ability is that even the most "difficult" players acknowledge and respect him.

Best arrival:—

BAARTZ (Hakoah)



After so many dicy purchases, many people were inclined to smile at Hakoah when they brought this youngster from Newcastle.

His Australian transfer record tag of \$5,600 and the publicity that went with it didn't help matters for the youngster; such a burden is usually hard to carry.

But Baartz came through wonderfully well and in his first season not only established himself as Hakoah's only effective striker, but also gained his first "caps" against Scotland and Manchester United and then all but picked himself for the Asian tour.

Baartz is a hard working, industrious, fetch-and-carry type of forward with lethal shot in either foot. Also considered: Cliss, Hignett, Hoggart, Bankhead, Keenan, McColgan.

Best II. div. team:—

MANLY

Manly's sudden, spectacular rise in one season has been the best and most convincing performance in Second Division for many years.

To make their feat even more praiseworthy, they achieved this with a predominantly local side.

Coach Denis Adrigan and a few key players such as Campbell, Verrills, Freeman, Waller and Tuinman shaped Manly into a modern team playing attractive soccer.

There is no doubt that even without reinforcements — which they don't plan anyway — they will upset many teams next year in First Division.

Best II. div. player:—

Bamforth (B'town)

Without a doubt, this clever centre-forward who has scored most of Bankstown's goals, must be rated as the star of the year.

Roger Bamforth, a former Aston Villa regular, led his team's attack with so much determination and purpose that many times he became a marked man by defences.

For the past three years he has been Bankstown's ace scorer.

His accurate passing and powerful shooting make him an excellent striker — in any Division.

Also considered: Waller, Tuinman (Manly), Cucitti, Griffith (Sutherland), Tamandl, Pendleton (Granville), Smith, Bijkerk (Western Suburbs), Bastas (Hornsby).

Best player:—

WATKISS (APIA)



Once again Sydney lacked a really outstanding star whose selection for this honor could have been automatic.

However, Watkiss for most of the season was APIA's mainstay.

In the internationals, even against the Manchester "millionaires," he more than proved his class; anybody who can subdue a Denis Law must be worth his salt.

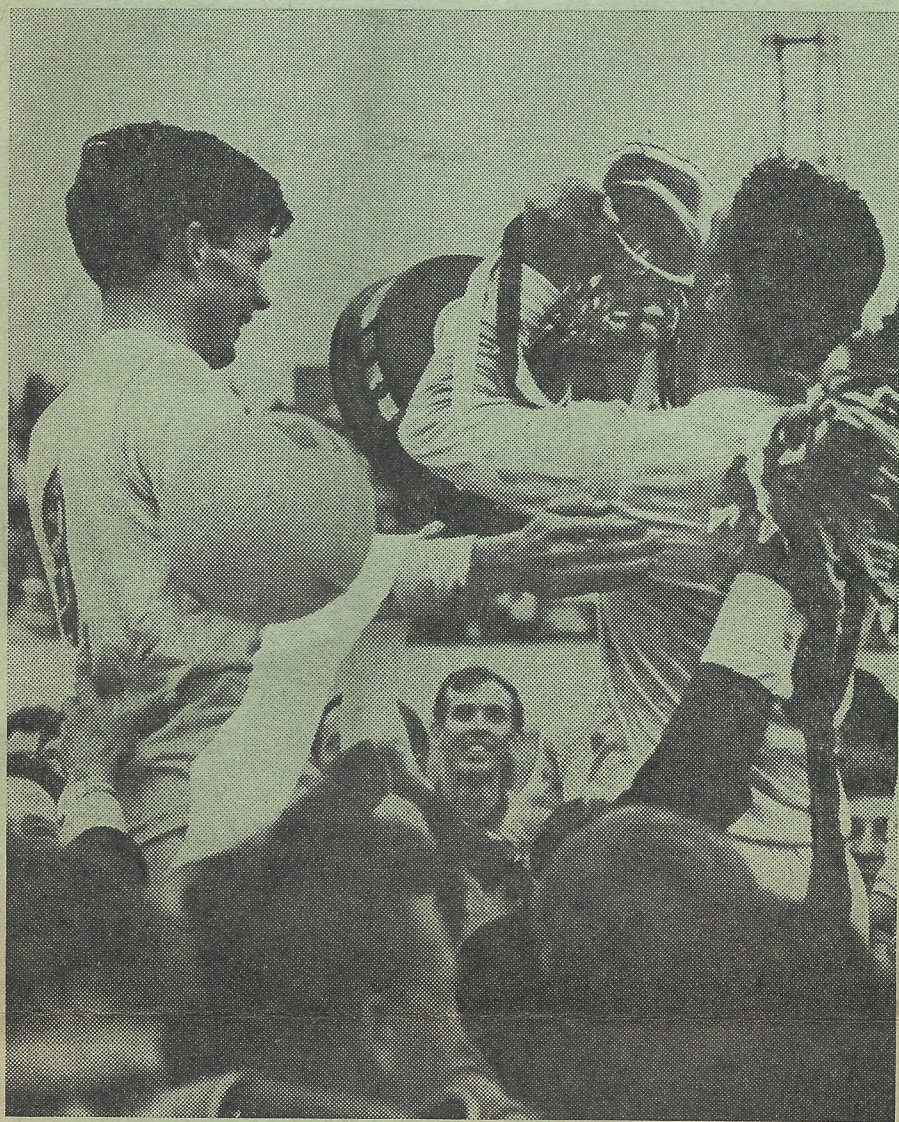
Curiously enough, it is still not finally determined whether Watkiss is more effective as a forward or as a stopper.

Also considered: Schaefer, Warren, Corry, Westwater, Marnoch, Eaton, Minol.

HONORS PRESENTATION

Best match of year:—

GRAND FINAL



This was indeed a classic and anybody who left the ground dissatisfied (though perhaps unhappy) should quickly abandon soccer for good: he is far too hard to please.

For 90 splendid minutes we had skill, drama, excitement, changing fortunes, wonderful performances and excellent goals; in short, a match that would get rave notices almost anywhere in the world.

Could Sydney turn on such a match weekly, it would become laughable to worry about the game's future.

It was the kind of exhilarating soccer that would once again fill our terraces and stands, the stuff that would bring back the missing thousands, and entice many more thousands to the greatest game devised by man.

It was champagne soccer turned on by two of Australia's very top teams,

doing battle at a level never reached previously in a Sydney Grand Final.

The fact that the underdogs not only triumphed, but did so after being down 0-2 ensured a dramatic atmosphere.

The cheering squads, the flags, the rosettes, the balloons, the marching girls and the band all contributed to create just the right atmosphere in which there is no room for failure or even dull mediocrity.

In the end, one team had to lose. But few who witnessed this final will ever doubt that apart from the mighty Saints, soccer as such also won.

This, indeed, was the best match played in Sydney for years.

Also considered: Pan Hellenic v. APIA (first round); APIA v. Croatia (first round); Pan Hellenic v. Prague (second round).

Best touring player:—

B. CHARLTON (Manch Utd.)

It was more than sheer pleasure to watch this great player in action: it was a rare privilege.

Undoubtedly one of the world's greatest all-rounders, Charlton dazzled and bewildered his opponents.

His displays thrilled thousands of delighted Australians who relished the opportunity of watching Europe's reigning "Footballer of the Year".

He is the paragon of the modern footballer who can defend, attack, graft, prompt and shoot — all at an extremely high level.

A gentleman through and through, it was a pity Charlton's exemplary conduct on the field did not rub off on his unruly Scottish team-mate, Denis Law, whose only Sydney appearance left a bitter taste in the mouths of thousands of fans.

Any time Charlton is keen to come to Sydney...

Also considered: Best, Kidd, Crerand, Kvasniak, Jurkanin, Ferguson, Morgan.



Best prospect:—

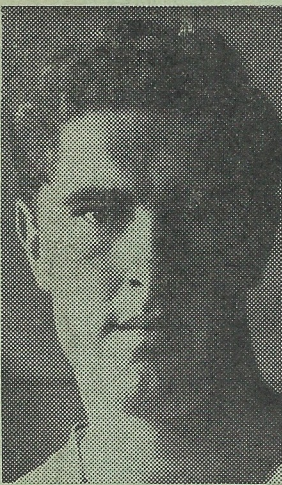
G. MORGAN (ST. GEORGE-B'PEST)

This strapping young giant with the looks of William Bendix skyrocketed within months from junior obscurity to representative level.

At 18, he is the most promising young defender in the State and with further improvement and experience could become a top-liner.

Somewhat slow on the turn and hesitant under pressure, Morgan also has excellent qualities such as speed, stamina and a strong flair for clearing the ball to his colleagues.

Also considered: Campbell; Brian Taylor, Vrolyks, Armytage, Gary Manuel, Ross Manuel, Davies, Hopkins.



Best clubman:—

SCHEINFLUG (PRAGUE)



This is always a difficult choice and the tag may sound like describing a plain woman as "nice" or "homely".

However, in Les Scheinflug's case this doesn't apply.

This veteran of some 11 years with the same club (and still under 30) has played a key role in acting as bridge between the Prague of yesterday and tomorrow.

Greatest loss:—

SAL. ISAAC (ST. GEORGE-B'PEST)

The return to Argentina of this effervescent, jocular yet tough fellow will be a sad blow to his club.

Never the star, yet always the pillar of his team, Salvador Isaac gave five years of excellent service to his club.

The least highly rated of Sydney's small Argentine colony, Isaac succeeded where others failed because of his iron will and determination.

Unflinchingly filling wherever a vacancy existed — fullback to forward — Isaac always gave his maximum with a never-say-die spirit.

Also considered: Astill, McPhail (retired), Sanchez, Wright, Badaracco.



Most improved player:—

RAY CUSH (CROATIA)



This young policeman has established himself as an outstanding midfield player of representative potential.

Possessing above average skill, a sense of distribution and unlimited strength, the elder of the foot-balling Cush brothers is an ideal wing half.

Used in the forward line, particularly on the wing, was quite clearly not to his liking and it's hard to believe that his club will insist on wasting his talents there.

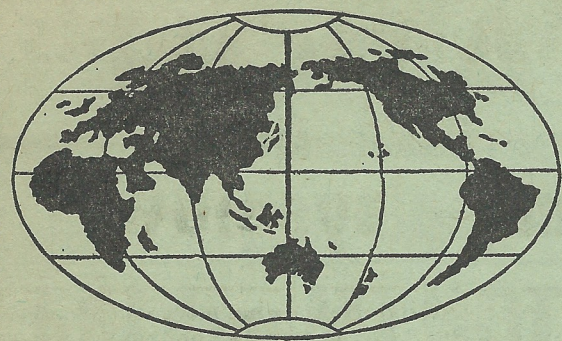
If weight does not become his major problem, Ray Cush should establish himself as one of Australia's top wing halves within the next two or three years. There are some who even felt his inclusion in this year's team to Asia would have been justified.

Cush, however, gained some consolation when he was chosen in the "B" team for Noumea.

Also considered: Dave Johnston, Clive Thomson, Geoff Harcombe, Eddy Mullan.

PAST HONORS LIST

1964:	1965:	1966:
Best team: APIA.	Best team: APIA.	Best team: APIA.
Best player: T. Edwards (Hakoah).	Best player: Hughes (APIA).	Best player: Campana (APIA).
Most improved player: Schaefer (St. George).	Most improved player: D. Todd (St. George).	Best discovery: Freeme (SCU).
Best discovery: R. Cush (Croatia).	Best discovery: Roberts (APIA).	Best arrival: Duffy (Hakoah).
Most valuable arrival: Campbell (Prague).	Most valuable arrival: Campana (APIA).	Best clubman: Bottalico (APIA).
Greatest loss: Stokes (St. Geo.).	Best II. Div. team: Corinthians.	Best II. Div. team: Polonia.
Most exciting match: St. George v. Pan Hellenic 6-5 (Fed. Cup semifinal).	Best II. Div. player: Cilia (Melita Eagles).	Best II. Div. player: Krawiarz (Polonia).
Best II. Div. team: Polonia.	Best coach: Jelisavcic (Hakoah).	Most improved player: Sambrook (APIA).
Best II. Div. player: Gawlik.	Best referee: A. Boskovic.	Best referee: H. Parsons.
Best referee: H. Eilerts.	Best match: Pan Hellenic v. Polonia 5-4 (third relegation play-off).	Best coach: Marston (APIA).
Best coach: Polgar (APIA).		Greatest loss: Yardley (St. George).
		Best match: APIA v. Hakoah 2-0 (Australia Cup final).



ROUND THE WORLD

Attack on FIFA boss

FIFA's president, Sir Stanley Rous, has been strongly criticised by the Continental and British Press for washing his hands off the recent brawling Intercontinental Cup play-off match in Montevideo. Sir Stanley claims FIFA can't take any action because the play-offs between the South American and European champions are not "official" matches. Sanctions can only be imposed by the national associations of the clubs involved, he said in London last week. European newspapers are now demanding the Intercontinental Cup final be immediately officialised to enable FIFA to take drastic action in the event of future riots.

Slavia's world tour

Slavia Prague, due in Sydney early in December for four matches in Australia, will be away from home for six weeks. Their world tour started this week. The Czechs will also play in Canada, the United States, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Cambodia, Iran and India.

Roubles? Nyet!

Many people are wondering how the Russians have been permitted to field their 1966 World Cup team in this year's Olympic qualifiers? Well, a FIFA rule bars those players who figured in World Cup final pools — unless their respective FAs can testify that they are amateurs. And, somehow the Russians can . . .

Doctor in the team

For the first time, the Argentinian championship went to a "small club," Estudiantes de la Plata; all the previous titles were won by the "Big Five," — Racing, Boca Juniors, River Plate, Independiente and San Lorenzo. Estudiantes have two qualified physicians in their side, Madero and Bilardo.

Brawling Argentinians get rich

Despite the scandalous circumstances surrounding their recent Intercontinental Cup victory over Celtic, Racing Club of Buenos Aires have paid their brawling players a bonus of \$5,000 each. Every player was also presented with a car, a television set and \$2,000 worth of furniture. Celtic players, in contrast, were fined \$625 each for their part in the disgraceful Montevideo fiasco.

English crowds up

Despite the violence, brawls, larrikinism and record number of expulsions in English soccer this season, attendances are up 750,000 on last year with a quarter of the season completed. So far 8,497,675 spectators have attended the four professional divisions. The average attendance at First Division matches after last Saturday's round is 34,278 spectators.



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● "Kotoko," Ghana's champions, have qualified for the final of the African Champions' Cup. In the semifinal they beat Mali's top team, Dioliba, 2-1.

● The French First Division in 1968-69 will be reduced from 20 to 18 clubs. At the end of the current season three teams will be relegated and the fourth-last First Division side will play-off against the second team in Division II.

● Eddy Dublin, Luxembourg's top halfback will join French club Bordeaux. He is the third Luxembourg international playing in France.

● Dynamo Moscow won the USSR's Cup competition by beating the Soviet Army Club (Rostov-on-the-Don) 3-0 in the final last Wednesday week. Dynamo will represent the USSR in the 1968-69 European Cup-winners' Cup.

SCOREBOARD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Switzerland v. Cyprus 5-0; Yugoslavia v. Albania 4-0; Bulgaria v. Sweden 3-0.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCHES: Austria v. Switzerland 4-1; England v. West Germany 0-1.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Holland v. Yugoslavia 1-2.

EUROPEAN CUPWINNERS' CUP: Bayern Munchen (West Germany) v. Setubal (Portugal) 6-2.

FAIR CITIES' CUP: Liverpool v. Munchen 1860 (West Germany) 8-0; Vojvodina (Yugoslavia) v. Lokomotiv Leipzig (East Germany) 0-0; Rangers (Scotland) v. FC Koln (West Germany) 3-0; Bilbao (Spain) v. Bordeaux (France) 1-0; Atletico Madrid (Spain) v. Goztepe Izmir (Turkey) 2-0.

BELGIUM: Racing White v. St. Trond 2-2; Lierse v. Antwerp 4-1; Anderlecht v. Malines 4-2; Waregem v. Standard Liege 1-1; Beerschot v. Bruges 0-0; FC Liege v. Olympic Charleroi 2-1; Sporting Charleroi v. Beveren 5-2; Beeringen v. Daring 3-1.

FRANCE: Red Star v. Lyon 1-1; Valenciennes v. Aix 1-0; Nice v. Lille 3-1; Rouen v. Ajaccio 3-1; Bordeaux v. Rennes 6-2; Nantes v. Angers 0-1; Strasbourg v. Metz 0-0; Marseille v. Monaco 2-1; St. Etienne v. Sochaux 2-0; Lens v. Sedan 3-0.

GREECE: Ethnikos v. Vyazas 1-1; Olympiakos Pireus v.

Olympiakos Cyprus 1-0; Heraklis v. Panathinaikos 0-0; Egaleo v. Apollon 1-0; AEK v. Panseiraikos 4-0; Panelefsinaikos v. PAOK 3-2; Aris v. Prodeftiki 2-0; Panionios v. Volou 2-0; Pierikos v. Veria 1-0.

HOLLAND: DWS v. Volendam 3-3; Sittardia v. Feyenoord 1-2; MVV v. DOS 2-0; Twente v. Telstar 4-2; PSV v. Go Ahead 1-2; Xerxes v. ADO 0-1; Sparta v. Fortuna 54 1-1; NEC v. NAC 2-1; GVVAV v. Ajax 1-1.

ITALY: Bologna v. Spal 2-3; Brescia v. Inter Milan 2-0; Cagliari v. Juventus 2-0; Mantova v. Atalanta 1-0; AC Milan v. Sampdoria 2-0; Napoli v. Fiorentina 1-0; Roma v. Vicenza 0-0; Torino v. Varese 0-0.

SPAIN: Barcelona v. Cordoba 3-2; Sevilla v. Atletico Madrid 0-2; San Sebastian v. Atletico Bilbao 1-1; Pontevedra v. Sabadell 0-0; Zaragoza v. Espanol 4-2; Real Madrid v. Betis 3-0; Malaga v. Valencia 0-0.

WEST GERMANY: Neunkirchen v. Braunschweig 1-2; Hanover 96 v. Werder Bremen 4-2; Hamburger SV v. Moenchengladbach 2-3; Duisburg v. FC Nurnberg 2-0; Eintracht Frankfurt v. FC Koln 1-2; Alemannia Aachen v. Kaiserslautern 1-1; Karlsruher SC v. Munchen 1860 0-3; Bayern Munchen v. VfB Stuttgart 3-1; Borussia Dortmund v. Schalke 04 2-1.

COMMENTS BY SAIGON PRESS

The English-language SAIGON POST gave the Australian team plenty of coverage throughout the National Day Tournament.

Here are some of the most interesting excerpts of the many articles devoted to the series, which, incidentally, is called the "Quoc Khanh" Soccer Tournament in Vietnamese.

It transpires from the following that Australia and South Korea were widely tipped as the finalists even before the preliminary round-robin matches were completed, although the South Vietnamese coach had not lost hope altogether.

BOLD PREDICTION

"I think South Korea will beat Australia," said Karl Weigang, the German coach of Vietnam's soccer team.

The South Koreans are very strong physically and will not be upset by the powerful tackling of the Australians," said Weigang.

"Also they are quickest to the ball." Weigang claimed that Vietnam would have beaten Australia in Tuesday's match if the local players had been as strong as the Koreans.

"You hit a Vietnamese player two, three times," explained Weigang, "and you take his heart." (November 9).

WARREN'S NIP

"The Australian players have been driving themselves in Saigon's extreme humidity until they are empty of energy and could be almost at the point of exhaustion by the final next Tuesday.

Warren was desperately tired Wednesday and was given brandy before spending the afternoon sleeping while the other Australian players were training." (November 10).

FAMOUS LAST WORDS

"Pourquoi pas le Vietnam?" This was the comment of Vietnam's coach Weigang to a question asked by a newsmen on Wednesday night at Cong Hoa stadium.

The newsmen's question was which team, between Korea and Australia, had the best chance to win this year's Quoc Khanh tournament.

Weigang added that the way is still open for the Vietnam team to win the tournament if it can defeat New Zealand, then Korea in the semifinals.

Weigang expressed sorrow at the high number of injured players as a result of the match against Australia.

The game proved costly for the Vietnamese, he said, for three local players will not be able to play again before the end of the tournament.

Despite all those disadvantages, Weigang remains hopeful of beating Korea in the semifinal.

"In our match against Australia we missed three golden opportunities to score, without that bad luck we could have defeated the Aussies. So why not Vietnam the winner of this tournament?" (November 9).

BONE-JARRING

"The Vietnamese players were thrown out of their stride by the bone-jarring of the Australian defenders such as Stan Ackerley and Manfred Schaefer." (November 11).

\$500 BONUS

"Coach Weigang confirmed that each Vietnam player had been offered the equivalent of \$500 by Vietnam's vice-president, Marshall Ky, as an incentive to beat Australia." (November 11).

AUSSIE RHYTHM

"The Australian team is building up a beautiful rhythm and I do not want to break it up," Joe Vlasits, the Australian coach said.

Vlasits was explaining his decision to rest a couple of key players in Saturday's game against Singapore." (November 11).

HIGH RECEIPTS

"It was announced officially that the gate receipts of only the first three matches of the Quoc Khanh tournament have exceeded three million Vietnamese dollars.

It was far higher than expected because the Organising Committee originally only hoped for two and a half million for the whole tournament." (November 9).

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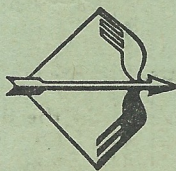
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• MELBOURNE STOCKTAKING JUVENTUS YEARN FOR RETURN OF TRIUMPHS

As the "kingpins" of Victorian soccer in the 1950's when they almost swept the boards in league and cup soccer, Juventus have failed dismally in the 1960's, and with the exception of their Dockerty Cup win in 1960, they have each season flattered to deceive by finishing up empty-handed.

An almost perennial change through their program unde-feated and it didn't take them long to reach the top and become a force in the First Division, and win the league title five times in a row. In bygone days they had an imposing record. Winners of the State League Cup and the State League in 1958, they won the Ampol Cup in 1959 and in 1960 recorded their Dockerty Cup success.

Sandwiched in between they won the "World Cup" (Melbourne style) in 1955 and 1960 when Juventus represented "Italy".

Many honors

Over the years some of the best players who have ever played in Victoria have worn the colors of Juventus: M. Buisidoni, P. Plateo, E. Boz, P. Cubero, E. Bottari and V. Kassay.

Twice Juventus players have won the Argus Medal and both have been centre halves. In 1955 Mario Buisidoni who recently had a spell as coach of Slavia, won the award while in more recent times, 10 years later, in 1965, George Scott who has been their ace defender for the past three seasons and returns to Scotland for good this week, also won the medal.

The sixth in a series of articles by
BOB LOW

In the Australia Cup their few fleeting appearances have seen them fizzle out as real challengers long before the concluding stages were reached.

However, this past season they managed to make the semifinals mainly through the seeded draw but were disposed of by the eventual winners, Melbourne HSC.

Ambitious and always colorful, Juventus have come a long way since 1948 even though they have finished the last seasons empty-handed.

Successful integration of other nationals in their team means they are Italian in name only and during 1967 they had English, German, Dutch and Scottish players as regulars besides a four-man Italian complement.

Strong Italian factions and many who now stay away from their games are, however, disturbed by the ever decreasing number of their own nationals in the side.

But the management have more than once clearly stated that their policy was to field the best side, irrespective of its make-up.

Difficulty in securing good class Italian-born players either from overseas or from the local market has undoubtedly influenced the management's policy on this score.

The Italian management and fans, exasperated as they may be at the lack of success, would do well to copy the team-building efforts of their "stable-mates" at St. Kilda, Melbourne, whose reward for six years of planning paid off handsomely in 1967 when they won the Australia Cup and the State League title.

In the field of locally produced juniors, Juventus would, despite the claims of others, be the pioneers in State League soccer.

They introduced Frank Barbazza from the local ranks into their first team almost 10 years ago at the age of 17.

He has remained a regular first team player ever since.

Today Juventus have a minimum of three and sometimes four locally bred juniors in their first team; as many as any other club, and more than most.

School sponsors

Each season the club earmarks a considerable sum for the sponsorship of school and church teams, established sides in the lower divisions and their own juniors.

They employ several part-time junior coaches who go into the field and regularly give assistance to the minor clubs.

Outside of their income through the turnstiles Juventus receive considerable assistance from a strong and well organised Ladies' Committee which would be the best in State League soccer.

More than a glimmer of hope emerges for the Juventus fans for 1968 providing the

SAD LOSS

Ringwood City — Wilhelmina and Victorian soccer has lost one of its most enthusiastic officials with the recent death of Bill Melai who was also the club's delegate to the Victorian Soccer Federation.

Bill, who was secretary of Wilhelmina, was well known in Geelong where for several years he ran a newspaper which incorporated a big soccer segment.

Aged 55, he leaves a widow and three children.

club can retain the stability of management it had this season, find adequate replacements for both centre-half George Scott and inside forward John Bell who are returning to Scotland together with other first team players, John Milton and Terry Luckhurst and strengthen their extreme wing positions.

The ability to afford a full-time coach and the imminent possibilities of a full-time secretary-manager being appointed should put them in a strong position.

To finish second in State League and reach the semi-final of the Australia Cup in 1967 suggests that a new and more successful era confronts Juventus.

The players

This was the Juventus squad in 1967:

• **Deiter Voigt**, goalkeeper, from Germany, who formerly played with Lions.

• **Ian McDonald**, reserve goalkeeper from Scotland, previously with Hakoah.

• **Joe Sonsini**, right back, Italian-born who was formerly with Triestina.

• **Alan Gentry**, left back from England where he played with Harrow Town.

• **Pasquale Della Rocca**, right half, Italian-born, product of Juventus juniors.

• **George Scott**, centre half, played with Hamilton, Hibs, Blackpool, Bath City and Toronto.

• **Mario Corti**, left half, captain-coach from Italy who was with Juventus-Adelaide.

• **Frank Barbazza**, right winger from Italy who is the club's longest serving player.

• **Freak Torque**, winger from Holland, previously with Lions.

• **Jimmy Millar**, inside forward from Scotland who played with Dumbarton.

• **Terry Luckhurst**, wing-half or inside forward from England where he played with non-league side, Maidstone.

• **Luigi Pignatelli**, inside forward or centre, recently secured from Italy.

• **John Bell**, inside forward from Scotland who played with Raith Rovers and St. Johnstone.

• **Dino Di Marchi**, forward from Italy, product of Juventus juniors.

• **Eric Norman**, centre forward from Scotland who played with Partick Thistle.

• **Jim Malloy**, forward from Scotland who played with Brechin City.

• **Dario Epifano**, left winger from Italy and another who stepped up from Juventus juniors.

Coach: Mario Corti.

BARCLAY DEPOSED

In a shock result at the VSF Board of Management elections in Melbourne this week, deputy-chairman, John Barclay, co-manager of the Australian touring team, was deposed.

Barclay was defeated by John Gorton, but was appointed in absentia manager of the Victorian State squad.

Mike Weinstein was re-elected chairman of the Board despite rumors he would not stand again.

D. Melidos is the new treasurer and other members of the Board for 1968 are John Oliphant, the State League chairman, A. Begovic, M. Pavlovich, L. Harris, J. Barclay and J. Castellini.

— Bob Low

Adelaide guests had quick rise to power

— From ALLAN CRISP —

West Adelaide Hellas who meet Pan Hellenic at Wentworth Park at 3 p.m. on Sunday have been in SA's First Division for the short span of four years but they have already established themselves as the major honors rivals to Adelaide Juventus.

Now second only to Juventus in crowd-pulling appeal, Hellas had a colorful history.

Hellas were formed in 1946 and under the name of Hellenic Youth Club, played in Second Division.

They changed their name to Olympic in 1948 and were relegated to Third Division in 1953.

In 1959 they topped Third Division and re-entered Second Division, only to be suspended in September 1960.

Readmitted to Second Division as WA Hellas in 1962, they earned promotion to First Division in 1964.

They celebrated their entry to top grade by winning both the Ampol and Federation Cups.

Hellas completed the 1965 season in fourth position.

The following year, former Irish international, Tom Forde was engaged as coach and significantly Hellas won their first premiership.

This year Hellas finished runners-up to Juventus by one point but gained consolation by winning the Federation Cup.

HUNT FOR COACHES

The silly season" jostle for coaches reached its peak in Adelaide last week when two clubs announced their choices for 1968.

Croatia signed Ivo Radovnikovic to coach for one year on a full-time basis and Juventus engaged Mario Danieli as their full-time coach.

Meanwhile Polonia, Seaciff-Austria and Port Adelaide are known to be shopping for coaches.

USC Lion have decided on a new appointment but are not yet ready to release his name.

This early, almost frantic, rush for coaches rather than players shows that clubs have at long last realised the importance of having a top class man in charge of tactics and conditioning.

PEN PORTRAITS OF WA HELLAS

Peter Tsitsos: Goalkeeper. Former Greek international, hero of Adelaide's Greek community. Was hampered by knee injury this year.

Sam Service: Goalkeeper. Like Tsitsos came to Adelaide from SM Hellas, was listed in Australian World Cup squad in 1965 but preferred to return to Ireland for a holiday. Played First Division in Ireland.

Elio Marusic: Right-back or centre-half. Automatic choice for SA having represented the State 18 times.

Nick Kefaloudis: Left-back, tear-away defender who likes to join in attacks.

Peter Worthington: Right-half. Polished mid-field linkman, has eight SA appearances to his credit.

Tom Forde: Left-half. Captain-coach and also SA coaching director. Has unequalled leadership qualities but an ankle injury may restrict him to only one half.

Nick Pantelis: Right-wing. Represented SA against AS Roma, Sparta and Victoria. Sydney fans will see why he was chosen in the Australian squad for Saigon.

John Irwin: Inside-forward or half-back. Irishman who played previously with Enfield City. A solid tackler and good distributor.

Con Solopotias: Mid-field. Versatile young recruit from South Melbourne-Hellas.

Laurie Peterson: Forward, speedy attacker who played centre-forward for SA against Torpedo.

Alex Zervas: Forward, clever youngster who is fast making a reputation in senior ranks.

Alec Byrne: Winger, former Glasgow Celtic winger who retains his dash and ball control to create havoc in any defence.

Tony Batchelor: Forward, headed the SA goalscoring list this season.

Mav Kilishiri: Forward, one of the club's brightest young prospects.

PAN HELLENIC IN EASY WIN

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

A whirlwind first half gave Pan Hellenic a shattering 4-0 victory over West Adelaide Hellas last Saturday night at Norwood Oval.

Pan Hellenic scored twice in the first six minutes and then unwound a brand of skilled play that marked them as one of the best interstate club sides to visit Adelaide.

The big pity was that only a disappointingly small crowd of 1,500 paid to see the Sydney team.

Pan Hellenic used four "stay put" defenders and permitted their remaining six field players free rein

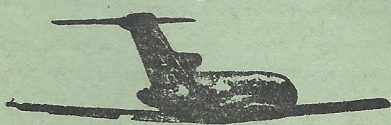
to work a penetrative interchanging pattern that was a delight to watch.

Hellas began the second half in spirited fashion.

They won the ball more consistently than the Sydney team and earned more scoring shots, giving rise to hopes that they would repeat their comeback effort against SM Hellas.

Scorers for Pan Hellenic: Omeros, Smith, Karyannis and Laraman.

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GROUP "A"

Results

South Vietnam v. Singapore 2-0; Australia v. New Zealand 5-3; Australia v. South Vietnam 1-0; New Zealand v. Singapore 3-1; South Vietnam v. New Zealand 5-1; Australia v. Singapore 5-1.

Table

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Australia	3	0	0	11	4	6
Sth. Vietnam	2	0	1	7	2	4
New Zealand	1	0	2	7	11	2
Singapore	0	0	3	2	10	0

GROUP "B"

Results

Malaysia v. Thailand 3-2; South Korea v. Hong Kong 1-0; South Korea v. Thailand 3-1; Malaysia v. Hong Kong 2-0; Thailand v. Hong Kong 5-1; South Korea v. Malaysia 2-1.

Table

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sth. Korea	3	0	0	6	2	6
Malaysia	2	0	1	6	4	4
Thailand	1	0	2	8	7	2
Hong Kong	0	0	3	1	8	0

Semifinals

Australia v. Malaysia 1-0; South Korea v. South Vietnam 3-0.

Third place play-off

South Vietnam v. Malaysia 4-1.

Final

Australia v. South Korea 3-2.

ABONYI IS ACE SCORER

Australia's goalscorers in the Saigon National Day Tournament were:

Abonyi 8, Baartz 3, Warren 2, Westwater and Vojtek, one goal each.

Abonyi was the series top goalgetter and won a special trophy.



In their first three matches of Group "A" in Saigon the Australians had already scored more goals (11) than on the whole 1965 Southeast Asian tour when they netted 10 times in eight matches.

Aust. Major is mail carrier

A high-ranking Australian officer played postman for the Australian team this week.

Youthful-looking Major T. J. T. Walton, from Det. 5, A.S.C.O., Vung Tau, had dropped in to congratulate the team after their splendid 5-1 victory over Singapore in Saigon last Saturday on his way back for a furlough in Sydney after six months at the front.

The major offered to take back any messages for the tourists' letter-starved relatives and friends.

His generous offer was quickly pounced on by the players and the Major spent a good time of his first day of leave in Sydney last Monday telephoning relatives and delivering messages.

HOST TEAM "ENJOYS" SPARTAN CONDITIONS

SAIGON. — The visiting teams to South Vietnam's National Day Soccer Tournament have various complaints about living conditions here, but they were infinitely better off than the local side.

The main complaints from visiting teams is about the food, the unpredictable hot water service and the lack of recreational facilities.

The food is unappetising, it is true.

But it is wholesome enough and the cooks must try and cater for the tastes and customs of Europeans, Moslems, Buddhists and Hindus.

While the hot water is rarely there when wanted, which matters little in Saigon's weather, each room has an unlimited supply of running cold water for toilet, shower and hand basin.

Recreational facilities are nil — unless you count television, which shows programs familiar to at least the Australians, and a juke box.

Above all, the hotel is clean and air-conditioned.

None of the players from the seven visiting teams has seen where the eighth side, their hosts, live.

It is in one of the numerous Government Army barracks that dot the outskirts of Saigon, and is strictly off limits for civilians.

At the Golden Building Hotel not more than three people share a quite spacious room.

At the barracks the entire 18-man South Vietnamese squad, plus coach, are sardined into one room 36 feet by 12.

The beds are jammed together, without even room for a small locker between.

But, as a South Vietnamese official remarked, this does not matter — "the players can easily fit all their belongings into an overnight bag and stuff it under their beds".

There is no ceiling in the room, only some corrugated iron which leaks badly in rain.

But the players do have some privileges — none of the 500 other troops at the barracks have mattresses on their bunks.

Otherwise they live just like the rest.

This means washing — both themselves and their clothes in four by two feet tubs.

It means eating at a mess which is only corrugated iron under rough concrete supports.

And the food, the official said, is just "adequate" according to World Health Organization standards.

Recreational facilities are one badly cracked concrete basketball court.

There is no juke box. Who could afford it on the average Vietnamese enlisted man's pay of 3,000 piastres (18 Aust. dollars) a month?

— AAP SPECIAL

— Editorial —

Merdeka is now a must

We are saying this as calmly as possible, not being carried away by the flush of pride and excitement over our team's success in Saigon: Australia's participation in all future Merdeka Tournaments is an absolute MUST.

And if the Australian Soccer Federation doesn't nominate, enter and finally send our strongest team there next year, they are bordering on criminal negligence.

In this part of the world, the Merdeka IS the yardstick by which relative strengths of countries can be measured.

With the exceptions of China and North Korea, all the Asian countries that matter make an annual pilgrimage to Kuala Lumpur to check their progress and ensure their development.

For Australia NOT to take part in the Merdeka would equal Brazil or Hungary not entering the World Cup.

Playing a few friendly internationals against visiting teams may be fun — but the world does not measure our standing in fun terms.

In the past few years, the ASF has not even nominated for this event — out of fear, that a few clubs may dislike the idea.

They feared that as the Merdeka was always held in the middle of our season, some noisy club official would kick up a rumpus about losing one or two of their players for three weeks.

So, in a rather cowardly fashion, the ASF has never even put the matter to a crucial test.

There may be one or two clubs who, out of some regrettable shortsightedness, will yell and scream against the Merdeka.

To them a few lousy competition points are worth more than any reputation and success an Australian team can achieve overseas.

But are there really any such officials? Perhaps the ASF has been shadow-boxing only.

One of Sydney soccer's longest serving and most level-headed club officials, St. George-Budapest president Leslie Bordacs may hold the typical view.

"We are immensely proud that two of our players, Warren and Schaefer are in the Australian team," he said this week.

"And if an Australian team needs our players for the Merdeka next year, even in August, we'll be happy to let the boys go.

"This, we feel, is the price any club must be ready to pay for success in the home competitions.

"Rugby League and Union both do it and there is no reason why soccer should be different.

"In my view the Merdeka is a must, whether we suspend our competition for that period or not.

"And if we have to play three matches without a couple of our best players and drop some precious points in the process, I'll still say the same."

Bordacs takes a longer view of the benefits than some others.

"Having a player from your club in an Australian team will undoubtedly bring benefits," he said.

"If Australia does well, the Asian countries will be keen to invite even our best club teams.

"If they see a Warren, a Westwater, an Abonyi, a Baartz or others, they may eventually want to see them in their club sides as well.

"But there is another very vital aspect," Bordacs added.

"If we really believe that soccer's gospel must spread into the suburbs and the districts, we must create an 'image' for today's youngsters.

"What better image is there than seeing their idols play for Australia overseas, listening to the radio at 5 a.m. for the result and hearing that our boys are the toasts of a foreign city?

"This kind of natural publicity can do more for the game than one thousand abortive, endless meetings and pow-wows.

"This is living soccer which we all love and believe in."

The tremendous publicity the Australian team's Saigon venture has received in the daily newspapers and on radio — often as the first item of major news bulletins on 2GB and 2UE — must have convinced the conservative elements in our midst that the news media are ready to grab a first-class story if they see one.

And in this they obviously saw one.

Baartz shot ended siege

— From MARTIN ROYAL —

SAIGON, Monday — A bus-load of happy perspiring Australians madly singing Waltzing Matilda — that was us last night on our way to our hotel from the stadium.

For our team, after 110 minutes of hair-raising excitement, in front of another capacity crowd of 30,000, scored a 1-0 win over Malaysia in the semifinal to make our successes for in a row.

As it so often happens in football, the match everybody regarded as a cakewalk nearly turned sour.

Malaysia, quoted at prohibitive odds, put up fantastically stiff resistance and it took all the might and will of Australia to finally subdue them.

The evening started off ominously with a torrential downpour, just before the kick-off of the South Vietnam v. South Korea semifinal.

The ground was one shiny big pool of water and in Sydney any self-respecting groundsman wouldn't have allowed a perfunctory inspection of the surface, let alone the match to be staged.

As it turned out, the first game was more like a combination of waterpolo and water-skiing at which the stronger Koreans proved more apt, scoring a 3-0 win.

When our match against Malaysia started, the rain had stopped but the ground was one big quagmire.

The first minute brought instant sensation: McColl was brought down by a heavy and late tackle inside the box and Abonyi took the spot kick.

Trying to place the already heavy, sodden ball too delicately, Oatie's weak kick died off in the clutches of the diving goalie — and our hearts missed a beat.

No matter — our boys must have thought — as they took the Malaysian goal under heavy barrage.

Still, somehow, the ball wouldn't go in.

In the 14th minute Warren met a cross in mid-air but his header hit the post.

In the 24th minute Baartz missed by inches with a hard drive and in the 30th Abonyi's shot smacked against the crossbar.

After the interval the siege continued but, it seemed, all the Malaysian gods were clearly against us.

Malaysia defended with up to nine men, obviously playing for a 0-0 draw and hop-

ing that luck would be on their side if a coin were to be tossed.

In the 66th minute Australia almost breached the wall when a Westwater-McColl-Vojtek attack unfolded but the final shot went wide.

And so, frighteningly soon, the 90 minutes were up and the teams turned for extra time.

For some 10 minutes the same old story continued: Australia attacked, Malaysia defended and their goal seemed impregnable.

And then, finally, out of the blue, it happened.

One of the strictest critics of the Australian team before its departure, former ASF vice-president Jim Bayutti, was as delighted as anybody upon hearing the result from Saigon.

"I want to congratulate the whole party, especially the coach and the players", he said.

"This is a stupendous result for Australian soccer and must be a start towards some sort of world ranking in the soccer hierarchy.

"The win demonstrates that the national team policy started two years ago is bearing fruit.

"It is now our duty to keep up the closest relations with Asian soccer", Bayutti concluded.

The ebullient Westwater, dashing off on the right wing, looked up for a moment, paused and calmly placed the ball on the foot of the on-rushing Baartz.

And Baartz, putting all his frustrated misery into this one solitary shot, almost tore the net out with his close drive.

The remaining nine minutes were a kind of an anticlimax: Australia were content to keep the result while Malaysia, clearly beaten, made only one or two tentative attempts to come back into the picture.

Australia's line-up: Corry; Keith, Ackerley; Schaefer, Van Alphen, Westwater; McColl, Abonyi, Warren, Baartz, Vojtek.

We coast to 5-1 win

SAIGON — A free-wheeling Australia played at half-pace against Singapore last Saturday, yet scored an effortless 5-1 victory.

Leading 4-0 at halftime, the Australians were instructed by coach Vlasits to take things easy to conserve their strength for next day's tough semifinal against Malaysia.

Though play was pretty even after the interval, both teams scoring once, Australia never lost their grip on the game and ran out very comfortable winners.

The match was a useful workout for Sunday's semifinal and allowed Vlasits to bring in Wilkins and Lloyd for the first time.

Wilkins replaced Keith at fullback and Lloyd substituted for Westwater in the second half.

The Newcastle left-half made a fine impression in his first international and passed his baptism of fire with flying colors.

Playing in the unusual position of centre-half, rock-like Manfred Schaefer held the Australian defence together throughout, so well in fact, that our midfield mastery allowed fullback Ackerley to venture up into attack at will.

Ackerley revelled in the freedom allowed him and laid on many crosses and long passes to his forwards.

From one of these, Baartz nearly scored in the 5th minute, but the Hakoah forward's hard shot was deflected by the agile Singapore goalie.

Westwater opened the score in the 19th minute after a typical solo forceful burst.

In the 27th minute, Abonyi started the goal-scoring spree which was to pave the way for Australia's run-away win.

Another hat-trick

Showing wonderful anticipation and ball control on the soggy, slippery pitch, the Melbourne Hungaria match-winner scored another two beautifully taken goals in the 36th and 39th minutes to complete another hat-trick.

His first goal was a breathtaking solo effort, his second, a header from a cross by right-winger Richards and his third a delicately placed lob.

Although coasting, Australia made it 5-0 in the 53rd minute through Baartz.

Playing well within themselves, the Australians then allowed Singapore to come into the game and goalie Ron Corry was tested for the first time.

Corry covered himself with glory by saving a penalty which clinched his place for the semifinal and the final.

Singapore scored a consolation goal in the 73rd minute when their nippy inside-left, Andy Yeo, broke out of a couple of half-hearted tackles to net unopposed.

Baartz was our best forward with Abonyi, but Richards was a bit slow and Vojtek, whose approach work was brilliant, shot poorly.

Details: Australia: Corry; Keith (Wilkins), Ackerley; Micic, Schaefer, Westwater (Lloyd); Richards, Abonyi, Warren, Baartz, Vojtek.

Scorers: Westwater 19 min., Abonyi 27, 36 and 39 mins., Baartz 53 min. for Australia, Yeo 73 min. for Singapore.

— Martin Royal